

# Girl Chained, Bed to Crash If She Moved

Bedford Prisoner Tells How, Handcuffed in a Cell for 24 Hours, She Faced Serious Injury

## Bedlam Marks Inquiry

Girl, Beaten With Keys, Lost Hair in Which They Became Entangled

STAFF CORRESPONDENCE  
BEDFORD HILLS, N. Y., Dec. 12.—Stories of a girl chained in a strained position between the door of her cell and an untitled bed which would crash down upon her at the slightest movement, of another girl who was beaten over the head by the assistant superintendent with a bunch of keys that became tangled in her hair, and of similar incidents at the reformatory for women here were interrupted this afternoon by prisoners who turned their cottage into bedlam as a protest against punishment imposed.

John S. Kennedy, vice-president of the State Prison Commission, advised the session of his inquiry into disciplinary methods at the reformatory long enough to visit the cottage, accompanied by members of the board of managers and others at the hearing. He was invited to do so by Helen Cobb, superintendent of the place.

"If you gentlemen want to see for yourselves what difficulties we have to contend with," Miss Cobb said after receiving a telephone message, "you may come over to Lowell Cottage right now."

Bedlam in Cottage  
Lowell Cottage, in which negro prisoners of the reformatory are housed, was heard before it was seen. The uproarious din emanating from it smote the ears of the investigators before they got within sight of the building. When it came into view it was seen that almost every window was crowded with negro women who were shouting, crying and laughing hysterically.

Within the noise was deafening. Some of the prisoners had thrown themselves on the floor and were lamenting their lot and what they called the injustice of their keepers at the top of their voices. One of the girls in the cottage, they explained, had lost a piece of neckwear and thought one of her companions had stolen it. The punishment decreed was that no inmate of the cottage should share in the recreation hour until the neckwear had been returned.

Handcuffed to Cell Door  
Stella Kramer, muffled in furs and sparkling with gems, was entered into the opulent room of silk, was the girl who told about being stretched between her cell door and a nicely balanced bed. She was released from the reformatory last February, after serving a three-year term for shoplifting. In a fit of rage at being confined to her room on February 25, 1917, she had broken a window.

"They took me to Rebecca Hall," she said, "and laid me flat on the floor on my back with my hands handcuffed behind me. Then they raised me enough to get my hands out and fastened the handcuffs to the door of my cell. My feet were chained to a bed. The bed was raised so that if I tried to kick it it would topple over on me."

Miss Minogue (assistant superintendent) went to the bathroom and got a piece of soap from one of the tubs which she put into my mouth. Then she tied a piece of rag around to hold it there. My lips were cracked and the soap was dirty. I was left there for twenty-four hours. Some of the time I may have been unconscious. I remember water being thrown on me. Afterward they ducked my head in a tub of water."

Cut Off to Release Keys  
Peter Quinn, a guard at the reformatory who previously had testified to seeing at least one hundred girls strung up to their cell doors by manacles, told about the prisoner who was beaten over the head with the bunch of keys. It was Miss Minogue, he said, who tied the keys and they became so entangled in her hair that the furious girl that the hair was cut off in order to extricate the keys.

The girl was Maizie Rice, who also was a witness to-day. Quinn, who remarked usually that he had seen eight girls strung up to their cell doors at once, was called because the Rice girl had testified that the beating took place August 1, while the records showed she was sent to the disciplinary building on July 28.

Quinn agreed that it was August 1, being positive, he said, because it was pay day. There were four girls in the punishment cell at the time, he said, three white and one negro. This statement also was disputed, the records appearing to show that it was July 28 and that the punishment was three negro and one white. Later in the inquiry, however, it developed that the records were in error on this point and Quinn was right.

Favor Buses for Broadway  
Association Believes Motor Service Would Relieve Congestion  
Directors of the Broadway Association voted yesterday at a meeting at the Hotel Astor in favor of introducing motor buses to relieve transportation congestion on Broadway. It was decided to have the transportation committee make a report on conditions in Broadway and submit the problem to the entire membership of the association.

Changes were made in the bylaws of the organization which the general membership will vote on January 16.

# Police Squelch Radical Meeting

Communists Turned Back From Hall Where Gitlow and Larkin Were Billed

Members of the Communist party who set out last night to attend the advertised mass meeting of their organization at London Casino, 3861 Third Avenue, found that police reserves had got there first.

The police, under Inspector Savage and Captain Mahoney, were called upon to intervene by District Attorney Francis Martin of the Bronx, after he had been a part of the speakers at the projected meeting were to be Jim Larkin and Benjamin Gitlow, both out on bail charged with criminal anarchy, and Morris Zucker, who is facing a twenty-year sentence in Atlanta. None of these appeared at the cordon the police threw around the building at 6 o'clock.

## Family to Fight Benjamin for Adopting Daughter

Lawyer's Children to Attack Legality of Proceedings; Wife, Ill in Sanitarium, Unaware of Husband's Act

The sons and daughters of Park Benjamin, the lawyer, intend to contest the legality of his recent adoption of Miss Anna Bolchi, former governess to the Benjamin family and more lately companion to their seventy-year old father.

Miss Bolchi, Italian by birth, became Mr. Benjamin's legal daughter at Wilkes-Barre, Pa., Wednesday. Yesterday Park Benjamin Jr., announced here that he and his brothers and sisters intend to fight the adoption.

Trip to California  
One of the reasons given day before yesterday for the action of the elder Benjamin was that he desired Miss Bolchi to accompany him to California this winter and took this step as the best way of avoiding any unpleasantness.

Mr. Benjamin Jr. said yesterday knowledge of his father's action had been kept from his sister, Beatrice, the young man's stepmother, who is in a sanitarium at Goshen, N. Y.

"To Avoid Scandal"  
WILKES-BARRE, Pa., Dec. 12.—Judge John H. Luzzatto, of the Luzerne county, granted the decree of adoption to Park Benjamin here last Wednesday. The lawyer and Miss Bolchi came here Tuesday and left twenty-four hours later as father and daughter.

W. Alfred Valentine appeared as attorney for Mr. Benjamin, presenting affidavits and petitions and citing numerous precedents in his decision to show that a decree of adoption might be granted "to temporary residents or sojourners."

Arrested as Blackmailer, Youth Pleads Duress  
Real Culprit Threatened to Expose Him for Accidental Fire, Prisoner Says  
John K. Richardson, sixteen years old, who said he lived at 665 Summer Avenue, Newark, was held for examination yesterday by United States Commissioner McGoldrick in Brooklyn on a charge of attempting to blackmail a business man of Manhattan. The name of the alleged victim was not disclosed. He is said to be a man who served four years in prison twenty-five years ago and who since his discharge has led an exemplary life.

UNRESTRICTED PUBLIC SALE  
TODAY, DECEMBER 13  
Beginning at 2:30 P. M.  
In the NEW GALERIES OF  
ROBERT C. GRAHAM, Inc.  
128 West 49th St. (near 7th Ave.)  
AN UNUSUAL COLLECTION OF  
Bronzes, Porcelains, Statuary, Furniture, Oriental Rugs, Rare Prints, Etchings, Paintings, etc.  
Sheffield Plate and Silverware.  
BY ORDER OF THEO. BAUER and belonging to  
Other Estate and Private Owners  
ON VIEW U. T. I. TIME OF SALE.  
Robert C. C. ham, Auctioneer,  
Office & Galleries 128 West 49th Street Address  
Formerly 924-926, Broadway.

# Jury Rejects Olive Branch From Swann

District Attorney's Offer to Assign Two of His Assistants, Both Republicans, to Aid Panel Is Declined

## Would Publish Minutes

Both Sides Favor Publicity for Traction Testimony of Hylan, but Do Not Act

District Attorney Swann yesterday extended the olive branch to the extraordinary grand jury, and met with a rebuff for his efforts.

Assuring the jury of his readiness to "put aside matters of personal difference in the advancement of the public business," Mr. Swann offered the services of two of his assistants, Nelson Olcott and George N. Brothers. Both are Republicans, appointed by former Governor Whitman when District Attorney Olcott is the son of former Judge W. M. K. Olcott.

Raymond F. Almirall, foreman of the grand jury, which is officially pitiless, refused the District Attorney's peace offer. He declared that the jury's position was fully explained in its letter, dated November 20 last, to Governor Smith. In this letter the jury asked the services of the Attorney General of the state.

Swann Criticizes Jury  
Mr. Swann said the jury's declaration of his offer showed the "personal antagonisms above the public interest."

"I suggested these two members of my staff, who would proceed in lawyer-like fashion without regard to anything but the legal aspects of the case," said he.

"It simply represented my desire to put the public interests before anything else and to advance the public interest solely. The public is not interested in personal differences between officials."

Raises Constitutional Point  
The constitutional rights of citizens are being invaded because the jury has no legal adviser, Mr. Swann went on adding.

"The jury declines to let any member of the District Attorney's staff enter the grand jury room, except in an emergency. Both the state and Federal constitutions provide certain privileges to all citizens charged with crime. These rights are being invaded right now unwittingly by the jury, which refused to receive advice from the District Attorney."

Swann Knows of No Dictaphones  
In the letter offering the services of the two assistants, Mr. Swann commented on reports that the jury believed dictaphones had been installed in its room and the telephone wires of certain jurors were tapped, saying he had no knowledge of any such practice. If any one was spying he would be prosecuted, Mr. Swann said.

Both sides in the controversy yesterday expressed eagerness to have the day minutes made public, but neither took any step. The grand jury, it was stated, would consent, if Mr. Swann asked it, to have its minutes dealing with the examination of Mayor Hylan, Frank H. Hedley and others in the Interborough conspiracy inquiry made public.

Seven Jurors Settle Death Suit by Junkie  
Unusual Procedure Brings About Payment of \$3,000 by Railway  
Seven earnest jurors in the Queens Supreme Court yesterday caused the abrupt termination of the suit for \$10,000 brought by Mrs. Margaret Vernava against the Long Island Railroad for the death of her son Rocco. They blandly announced to the court that they had visited the scene of the accident, talked to persons who had witnessed it and had come to a definite decision among themselves.

Aim Poor, Suicide Fails  
Lonely since the death of her mother, and out of work, Miss Josephine Stinere, a former subway ticket agent, fired a shot at her head in her room at 1111 Fulton Street, Brooklyn, yesterday. Her aim was poor. The bullet passed a glancing blow, fracturing her skull above the right eye, and she was taken to the Jewish hospital charged with violation of the Sullivan law.

# Order Sought to Sell Mrs. Woolworth's Home

Proceeds From Fifth Av. Residence Needed to Pay Taxes, Parson Tells Court

Hubert T. Parson, committee of Mrs. Jean Woolworth, widow of Frank W. Woolworth, applied to the Supreme Court yesterday for permission to sell the residence of Mrs. Woolworth at 990 Fifth Avenue, at Eighty-eighth Street. Mr. Parson said that a fair value of the property is \$400,000.

Mr. Parson explained his request by saying that the estate of Mr. Woolworth, of which Mrs. Woolworth was the sole beneficiary, had certain obligations and liabilities which it was necessary to meet.

## Skyscraper Fire Halts Traffic in Street and Tube

Rush Hour Crowds Barred From Broadway and Sixth Av. as 42d Street Building Burns; Shuttle Congested

Forty-second Street, between Broadway and Sixth Avenue, was closed to traffic during the height of the rush hour last evening by a fire that burned the eighth floor of the thirty-story Bush Terminal Building, at 130 West Forty-second Street.


The blaze was caused by candles used for illumination in obedience to the usual convention of the hour, and was fed by the exhibit of furniture and house furnishings that occupies the entire eighth floor. So hot were the flames that window glass melted. Fire Chief Kennedy said that if the building had not been a modern fireproof structure it must inevitably have been demolished.

The fire seems to have gathered great heat before it set off the automatic alarms in the building. E. W. McConeghy, a house detective, was returning from supper about 5 o'clock, when the alarms began to sound. He immediately ran to a box alarm. On the arrival of Kenon a second alarm was turned in.

The halls and elevator shafts of the structure filled rapidly with smoke. Two elevator runners, William Burns and James Moore, braved the choking clouds and kept their cars in action, carrying hundreds from the building. Others escaped by way of the fireproof stairways. No one was injured.

Common Law Wife Sues "Diamond Gus" Estate  
Hall Promised to Leave \$150,000 to Her, She Says, When Another Was Revealed  
It appears from a bill of particulars filed in the Supreme Court yesterday that Augustus H. Hall, known as "Diamond Gus," had two common law wives. The bill was filed by Mrs. Jean L. Ryder in her action against the Lincoln Trust Company, an executor of Hall's estate. She is suing for \$150,000, which she alleges Hall said he would leave to her in his will in consideration of her promise not to sue for damages when she discovered he had another common law wife.

Local Church Seeks Basilica  
St. Jean Baptiste Congregation to Petition Pope for Privilege  
Petitions addressed to the Pope, asking for the establishment of a basilica at the Church of St. Jean Baptiste, Seventy-sixth Street and Lexington Avenue, will be presented to Archbishop Patrick J. Hayes to-morrow afternoon. The Rev. Joseph H. McMahon, of the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes, will deliver the petitions which have thousands of signatures. The ceremony will take place at 4 o'clock a. m. the Church of St. Jean Baptiste.



# Wanamaker's The Christmas Store

JOHN WANAMAKER  
Formerly A. T. Stewart & Co.  
Broadway at Ninth, New York  
Store Hours, 9 to 5:30

## Gift furs

25 per cent. less

### Women's Coats A quarter less

Plain black pony coats, 36 in. long, \$75.  
Pony coats, trimmed with Australian opossum or taupe nutria, \$187.50.  
Marmot coats with taupe nutria collar and cuffs, \$125.  
Dyed cone coats with Jap mink collar and cuffs, \$215.  
Mole coats, \$375.  
Alaskan seal, untrimmed (government skins, St. Louis dyed), \$900.  
With skunk collar and cuffs, \$900.  
Hudson seal (dyed muskrat), trimmed with squirrel, \$300 and \$375.  
Trimmed with beaver, \$375.  
Trimmed with mink, \$625.  
Caracul coats, trimmed with taupe wolf, \$375.  
Natural squirrel coats, \$600.  
Natural nutria coats, \$375.  
Natural beaver coats, \$540.

### Scarfs and Muffs —a quarter less

SCARFS  
Skunk, \$48 to \$64.  
Natural gray fox, \$16.50.  
Taupe opossum, \$15.75.  
Skunk - dyed opossum, \$16.50.  
Australian opossum, \$15 to \$45.  
Ermine, \$40, \$60 and \$75.  
Stone marten, \$45.  
Taupe fox, \$35, \$45, \$50, \$64.  
Taupe wolf, \$24, \$30, \$40, \$45 and \$52.  
MUFFS  
Skunk, \$40, \$50 and \$60.  
Natural gray fox, \$17.50.  
Taupe opossum, \$15.75.  
Skunk - dyed opossum, \$16.50.  
Australian opossum, \$32.50 to \$50.  
Natural squirrel, \$48.  
Ermine, \$30.  
Children's Fur Sets  
Sets of mouflon fox a quarter less, and money, \$5 to \$15.  
Separate muffs, \$5 and \$15.  
Second floor, Old Building.

## Young women—

100 coats, \$39.75  
Our \$49.75 to \$65 grades  
Our most advantageous purchase of the season.  
Correct silhouettes—all of the coats are adaptations of successful Paris models.  
Fine materials—Yakima cloth, wool velours, Venetia cloth, Burra cloth, broad cloth and heavy ratina. Smart colors.  
100 frocks.  
\$19.75, \$25  
Originally \$29.75 to \$50  
A few were even more than \$50.  
Tailleur models in serge, wool velours, velveteen, wool jersey and tricotine.  
Sizes are incomplete—a collection is made up of the "broken sizes" of our best models.  
Second floor (Tenth street), Old Building.

## Young girls

Coats at \$9.75.  
were \$12.75 and \$16.50  
Cheviot, a boyish model, lined—excellent for school and play wear. Navy blue or brown.  
Velveteen, lined and interlined. Dark brown, wine color, green or navy blue. Sizes 6 to 10 years.  
Frocks at \$9.75.  
were \$11.75 to \$19.75  
Dressy frocks of taffeta in plain colors and little checks.  
Frocks of green and navy blue crossbarred serge, with white washable guimpes and wool jersey dresses (Pekin navy blue or taupe) with pongee guimpes.  
Sizes 6 to 14 years included, but not all sizes in each model.  
Frocks at \$5  
Copies of \$13.75, \$18 and \$23.50 dresses in chambray.  
Simple, artistic and refined describes them in a few words. Porcelain blue, rose pink, yellow, violet, green.  
Women's gloves, \$1.95  
We wish to emphasize the fact that the gloves are made of French lambskin, which is softer and finer than that of any other country. Of course, the gloves were made in France.  
In gray and tan. We can not duplicate these gloves to sell at this low price.  
Washable capeskin, \$1.95  
American made—and very commendably made. Tan or gray; smart spear-point embroidery.  
Main floor, Old Building.

## Christmas music

—at home  
THE happiest people are those whose joys center in the home. How puny and poor is the superficial life of public gathering places, compared with the deep riches of the life in a thoughtfully planned home. In such a home there is always a piano, a player-piano, an AMPICO Reproducing Piano—producer of good MUSIC for family and friends.  
A piano for the home without one  
A better piano for a poor piano  
—this is the service the Wanamaker Store is prepared to render to all the people this Christmas-time. And, in order that we may do it well, satisfying the different individual tastes, we have assembled in the Piano Salons the largest collection of GOOD pianos, player-pianos and Reproducing Pianos under any one roof—  
70 different makes, styles, sizes, grades  
Upright pianos, 24 choices, \$340 to \$850.  
Small grand pianos, 12 choices, \$650 to \$1,550.  
Player-pianos, upright, 25 choices, \$575 to \$1,050.  
Reproducing pianos, upright, 5 choices, \$900 to \$1,950.  
Reproducing pianos, grand, 4 choices, \$1,650 to \$3,500.  
Good-will Terms  
Any one who wants a piano for Christmas, or who wants to give a piano for Christmas, may have any one of the 70 different instruments in our Salons on special, convenient and confidential terms. Delivery when desired. Choice had better be early.  
First Gallery, New Building.

## Women's frocks, \$31.50

Were \$35 to \$49.50  
—serge and tricotine, quite a variety of tailored models—chemise models with extended hip line; tunic frocks with insertion of folds; bloused frocks; overskirts and panels; embroidery, braid, pin tucks are used as trimmings. Sizes 34 to 42 included, but not every size in every model.  
Second floor, Old Building.  
Ninth Street Side.

## Silk stockings

Very fine are the plain stockings with mercerized cotton flare top, sole and heel. Colors are black, white, brown, light and dark gray, Russian knit, cordovan; \$2.50 (5c tax).  
Very sheer—therefore very much in favor—are all-silk stockings with a reinforced flare top, double toe and high spliced heel; \$3.50 (15c tax).  
For evening  
are gold and silver all-silk stockings with a fine open-work drop stitch; \$7.50 (55c tax).  
Extreme and fantastic are glove silk stockings with all-over open-work designs; some conventional, some floral, some with all open mesh and fancy stripes; \$8 (60c tax).  
Main floor, Old Building.

## Fine modern French terra cotta groups for Christmas gifts

Au Quatrieme  
Newly arrived, Au Quatrieme, are some very fine modern French terra-cotta groups made after the old Louis XV terra-cotta sculpture. Fine enough to be used in a room with French antiques. Groups are beautifully modelled and on gay and amusing themes.  
There are bacchantes in action swirled in draperies and crowned with vine leaves.  
There are young loves playing with doves, and bearing flowers.  
A more charming Christmas gift than these groups could scarcely be found.  
Fourth floor, Old Building.

## Running Board Trunks

containing two handsome well made enamel leather suit cases, \$35.  
Motor Shop, Burlington Arcade floor, New Building.



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